



# Federal Prisoner Reentry Initiatives

Presenter

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Thursday August 26, 2004

Richmond, VA



## Trivia . . .

- More than 2.1 million prisoners in US prisons and jails
- Most (> 95%) will be released
- More than 650,000 released each year
- 450,000 or so to parole
- In 2002, the adult parole population grew by nearly 21,000 to more than 750,000
- Only 45% of parolees successfully complete their parole
- 41% are re-incarcerated
- 9% abscond
- In 1994, more than 2/3rds of prison releases were rearrested within 3 years



# National Impact

Money for one . . . !

- In 2001, Bauer & Owens (2004) reported that \$167 billion allocated for police, corrections, courts & legal activities in the US. This was up from \$35.8 billion in 1982.
- \$38.4 billion by State governments for corrections- [↑] from \$6 billion in 1982.
- \$16.7 billion by local governments for corrections— [↑] from \$3 billion in 1982.
- \$5.2 billion by the Federal government for corrections— [↑] from \$0.5 billion in 1982.



# The State of the Union . .



- “This year, some 600,000 inmates will be released from prison back into society. We know from long experience that if they can’t find work, or a home, or help, they are much more likely to commit crime and return to prison...I propose a four-year, \$300 million prisoner reentry initiative to expand job training and placement services, to provide transitional housing, and to help newly released prisoners get mentoring, including from faith-based groups. America is the land of second chance, and when the gates of the prison open, the path ahead should lead to a better life.”



## The Call . . .

- On June 23, 2004, Representative Rob Portman of Ohio introduced H.R. 4676, known as the ‘Second Chance Act of 2004’ which, among other things, would establish a task force on Federal programs and activities relating to the reentry of offenders into the community.



## . . . Let Us Unite

- Prisoner reentry is an issue whose time has come
- It is an issue that involves governments at all levels
- It is an issue that has the support of Republicans and Democrats, liberals and conservatives
- Having a positive impact on recidivism leads to reduced crime and better use of our tax dollars



*What to do . . . ?*





## Serious Violent Offender Reentry Initiative (SVORI) (Definition and Overview)

- A collaborative Federal effort to improve outcomes for adults and juveniles returning to their communities from correctional facilities.
- Federal Partners: DOJ, DOL, HHS, HUD, DOE, DOA, DOC, DOI, DOVA, SSA, & The White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives



# SVORI

- In FY 2002-2003 50 states received a direct award to develop new or enhanced programs around offender reentry



# SVORI

- Virginia operates a SVORI program in Fairfax County
- And is considering other locations in the state



# The Phases of SVORI

- Phase 1—Protect and Prepare: Institution-Based Programs. that prepare offenders to reenter society. Services provided include education, mental health and substance abuse treatment, job training, mentoring, and full diagnostic and risk assessment.
- Phase 2—Control and Restore: Community-Based Transition Programs. These programs work with offenders prior to and immediately following their release from correctional institutions. Services provided in this phase will include, as appropriate, education, monitoring, mentoring, life skills training, assessment, job skills development, and mental health and substance abuse treatment.
- Phase 3—Sustain and Support: Community-Based Long-Term Support Programs. Connects individuals who have left the supervision of the justice system with a network of social services agencies and community-based organizations to provide ongoing services and mentoring relationships.



# More About the program

- 69 applicants (state and local sites) were selected to receive
- More than \$100 million in collaborative resources to develop or expand programs offering integrated supervision and services to offenders
- Some states have two grants—one adult, one juvenile
- Some sites have multiple programs—there are 88 SVORI Programs total
- SVORI programs target supervised populations



# SVORI ENCOMPASSES . . . ?

- Screening/  
Assessment
- Treatment
- Education
- Training
- Personal
- Development
- Reentry Planning
- Assessment/Planning
- Case Management
- Transitional Housing
- Supervision/  
Monitoring
- Treatment/Aftercare
- (Service Integration)
- Community Reintegration  
Activities



# The Target Populations

Generally populations consist of . . .

- Sex offenders
- Severely mentally ill
- Sex offenders & severely mentally ill
- Multiple special needs populations
- Substance abusers
- Mentally ill
- Co-occurring diagnosis



# What SVORI Sites Are Doing? (Programming & Service)

- **Assessment** (Risk & Needs)
- **Plan Development** (case management, treatment plan development, release plan development)
- **Substance Abuse Treatment**
- **Mental Health Counseling**
- **Medical and Dental**
- **Employment and Education Training**
- **Housing Assistance**
- **Faith-Based Component**
- **Other** (parenting, domestic violence, life skills, anger management)



## What SVORI Sites Are Doing? (Project Emphasis)

- Pre-release phase . . . Duration (and point of entry)
- Pre-release planning and community involvement
- “Standardized” curriculum vs. individual tailoring
- Use of a pre-release facility for programming
- Service coordination
- “Transition team” (“reaching out”) approach
- “Reaching in” of community providers
- Extent of community outreach
- Accountability panel
- Involvement of faith-based agencies in monitoring
- Mentoring



# SVORI

## *Latest Developments . . .*

NTTAC conducted needs assessment of SVORI grantees

Subject matter training programs in development

- collaboration training
- community supervision training
- cross training for community service providers and case management

Two-phased national longitudinal impact evaluation NTTAC conducted needs assessment of SVORI grantees



# The Multi-site Evaluation

The Multi-site SVORI Evaluation is being conducted jointly by  
RTI International and the Urban Institute.

- Implementation Assessment will document implementation of SVORI, including targeted populations, program elements, and agencies involved
- Impact Evaluation will determine the extent to which SVORI improves access to services, improves employment and health outcomes, and reduces criminal behavior of returning criminals
- Cost-Benefit Evaluation will determine whether SVORI was cost effective



## Structure of The Evaluation

- Longitudinal study of more than 4,000 offenders in 19 sites
- Data will be collected through in-person, computer-assisted interviews
- Baseline interviews in prison prior to release
- Post-release interviews conducted at 3, 9, and 15 months post release in the community or in prisons if the subject has been re-incarcerated
- Oral fluids drug tests conducted in conjunction with the 3-and 15-month interviews
- Administrative data from Departments of Corrections, Juvenile Justice agencies, law enforcement, and the IRS



## What's New

- **National Conference on Offender Reentry**  
September 19–22, 2004,  
Cleveland, OH,  
Renaissance Cleveland Hotel  
[Online registration](#) (closes August 30)